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S/N 09/893,184

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James E. Jaussi et al.
Serial No.: 09/893,184
Filed: June 27, 2001
Title: DUAL-STAGE COMPARATOR UNIT

Examiner: Kenneth B. Wells
Group Art Unit: 2816
Docket: 884.511US1

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on June 27, 2002. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

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IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please substitute the Abstract in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Abstract for the previous Abstract. Following is a marked-up version of the Abstract:

10/03/2002 SHINASS1 00000073 09893184

01 FC:103
02 FC:102

108.00 OP
84.00 OP

Abstract of the Disclosure

A comparator unit [comprising] includes a first amplifier stage and a second amplifier stage. The first amplifier stage includes a differential amplifier having a pair of input nodes for receiving a differential signal and a pair of output nodes, a switch connected across the pair of output nodes, and a non-linear load connected across the pair of output nodes. The second amplifier stage is coupled to the pair of output nodes of the first amplifier stage. In one embodiment the second amplifier stage is a non-linear amplifier. In an alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a differential pair. In another alternative embodiment, the differential amplifier is a pair of differential pairs.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to because, as stated in the office action, "it appears from the description in the specification that the switch 114 and the switches 164, 166 should not be illustrated in the same figure (since the specification describes these elements as being part of two alternative embodiments)." The instant application, at page 3, lines 9-10, states "Fig. 1A is a block diagram of *some embodiments* of a comparator unit 100 according to the teachings of the